#### **GROUP AWARDS**

### ABC INVESTIGATORS ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL

**El Monte** 

William Armantrout Juan C. Torres

While crossing a bridge over the Rio Hondo River, Inspectors Armantrout and Torres observed a person attempting to climb over the bridge railing. The two investigators ran to her and pulled her off the rail. While Investigator Torres stayed with her to calm her down, Investigator Armantrout sought assistance and lead sheriff deputies to the scene. The quick action and professional conduct of the investigators resulted in the saving of a life.

### MICHAEL D. MAHONEY & KATHY PIERSON CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY

San Bernardino

Mr. Mahoney and Ms. Pierson, Instructional Support Technicians, recognized the need to be knowledgeable about the location and quantities of hazardous materials on campus. They became the principal advocate of a chemical hazard database for the Biological Sciences Department. They researched and tested several types of systems in order to identify materials for rapid database recognition. Their tireless work in acquiring and setting up this database resulted in a bar coding system which can be used at even the most remote locations at the university. This database will benefit rescue activities, firefighting and even evacuation procedures both during an emergency as well as during safe day to day operations.

# DOUGLAS CARMICHAEL & DARRYL HILDRETH CORRECTIONS

San Quentin

In July of 1999 Mr. Carmichael, Print Instructor at the San Quentin State Prison, was notified of a safety complaint that was made to Occupational Safety & Health Administration regarding the print shop. The complaint noted poor ventilation and exposure to disease caused by pigeon droppings. Mr. Carmichael and Mr. Hildreth, Vocational Instructors, conducted an inspection and located the opening that the birds used to enter the shop. Mr. Hildreth designed and fabricated screens that would prevent the birds from entering and provide better ventilation. Using initiative and teamwork, they solved the problem creating a safer work environment.

### DONALD L. MOWERY & GREGG BOSS CORRECTIONS

Susanville

On September 9, 1999, approximately 1,200 gallons of diesel fuel spilled in the A-Facility Boiler area. Gregg Boss, Supervisor of Building Trades and Donald Mowery, Chief Engineer, were given the task of containing the large amounts of diesel fuel that were in the containment and floor areas and to identify the location and cause of the leak. Through quick thinking and diligence, Mr. Mowery and Mr. Boss obtained barrels to hold the fuel and barricaded the floor drains to keep the diesel from entering and contaminating the wastewater treatment plant. They quickly identified the source of the problem and repaired it. Due to their efforts, an extremely volatile and dangerous situation was avoided. There were no injuries to staff or inmates, or any loss of services to the institution, due to their quick thinking and the thorough containment procedures that were followed.

### SOLANO MECHANICAL MAINTENANCE TEAM CORRECTIONS

Solano

Gregory Knoroski

George Kulinski

The safety railing and gate around the Sewage Outfall Station at Solano State Prison had suffered damage during routine use. The gate and railing is located very close to the edge of the pit. Normal use of the gate, lifting it out to perform the maintenance required in the pit had caused injuries to staff in the past. Rather than just repair the gate, Mr. Knoroaski and Mr. Kulinski, Maintenance Mechanics proposed a cost-effective modification to the railing and gate system that would prevent future damage to the gate and greatly enhanced the safety features of the railing. The implementation of their new system has provided staff and inmates the ability to operate the gate in a safe manner greatly reducing the risk of injury.

### CTF FORKLIFT SAFETY GROUP CORRECTIONS

**Soledad** 

Jaime B. Antopia

Roger Baez

Phillip F. Orozco

Regulations regarding forklift training were changed in March 1999. Mr. Baez, Mr. Orosco and Mr. Antopia of the Correctional Training Facility in Soledad, were aware of the upcoming changes and wanted to be in compliance. They began their training program early and have trained over two hundred twenty staff and inmates. Their program was so successful that they have provided the training at other institutions. Due to their efforts, forklift accidents and material damage have decreased dramatically.

## PELICAN BAY SUPERVISORS CORRECTIONS

**Crescent City** 

E.B. Madrid M.H. Randolph P.T. Smith R.K. Swift

On August 31, 1999 there was a major disturbance involving two hundred inmates at Pelican Bay State Prison. Following this disturbance, these inmates failed to reintegrate and a state of emergency had to be declared during October of 1999. As a result of the difficulties encountered in the reintegration, Lieutenants Smith and Madrid and Sergeants Swift and Randolph reviewed and refined the Emergency Incident Response Force Procedure. As a result of their changes, staff response is quicker, more organized and safer for both staff and inmates. Since the revisions only two staff have been injured during approximately forty-five incidents with the general inmate population.

# PROGRAM 7 - CENTRAL PROGRAM SERVICES SAFETY COMMITTEE DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

Sonoma

Ruthe L. Anderson Renee Bliss Ron Cohn Janine F. Dowsett Megan Gordon Mark Hankins Jeffery Joseph Hess John V. Kliegl Alta Quakenbusch Jim Tallent Robert A. Winslow

Under the leadership of chairperson Ms. Ruthe Anderson, the Program 7/CPS Safety Committee at Sonoma Developmental Center initiated several programs that have reduced risk, provided a safer work environment, and reduced the potential for injuries. The enhancements to the safety program include a Quarterly Safety Award, Safety Information Stations, Transportation/Safety surveys, and Safety and Training Policies. The Safety Committee has had an enormous impact on the Program's safety record resulting in a reduction in the frequency and severity of injuries. The Committee's vision statement, "Supporting a Culture of Safety", and ensuing efforts, have reduced injuries and created a culture of safety.

### VOCATIONAL RESOURCE TEAM DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

Costa Mesa

Tom C. Thomas Candie A. Marx

After hearing about an injury to a consumer using a paper shredder at another facility, Mr. Thomas and Ms. Marx, Vocational Resource Specialists at Fairview Developmental Center, took steps to prevent the same type of injury from happening to their consumers. Working with the sales representative and plant operations staff, equipment guards were obtained and installed on all fifty paper shredders. An ongoing maintenance program was also implemented to decrease malfunctions, further decreasing the risk of injury to their consumers. Due to this team's efforts, there have been no consumer injuries since this safety program was implemented in 1997.

### BLANGSTED, VLASTELICA, AND CHARLTON FORESTRY & FIRE PROTECTION

Yreka & Fresno

Chief Doug Blangsted

Chief Verne Charlton (Retired)

Chief Paul Vlastelica

As volunteer members of the Department's Statewide Safety, Health and Training Committee, Chiefs Blangsted, Vlastelica, and Charlton revised the department's "Facility Inspection Guide" to a standard that exceeds any regulatory requirement. It is divided into functional work site areas, provides reference materials, web site references, and color posting/signing guides. The guide was designed for adaptation to the department's intranet website. Version II will include links to various regulatory websites for easy code, regulation, and standard referencing. This guide significantly enhances the department's ability to provide a safe and healthy work environment for employees throughout the state.

#### SAFETY FOCUS TEAM GENERAL SERVICES

Sacramento

Kevin Bayne	Deborah Hall	Edward Page
Manuela Carmona	Ruben Lopez	Paul Rubio
Manuel Gonzales	Chris Martinez	Tedalin Vallejos
Kevin Greenlese	Lin McGee	Robert Winkler
Joyce Hafner	David Osuna	Michael Wolcott

The Safety Focus Team is comprised of a group of voluntary individuals from the various departments within the Office of State Publishing. The team has been instrumental in lowering the costs associated with work-related injuries as well as decreasing the number of injuries. The group has been successful in improving safety awareness by providing safety publications, arranging for safety educational workshops, and improving the safety inspection process. The findings from the inspections are presented to management for corrections needed to make Office of State Publishing a safer environment. With the support of management, the team has been able to make a positive impact on worker safety and lowering the injury rate.

### SOUTH LOS ANGELES AREA MOTORCYCLE SQUAD HIGHWAY PATROL

Los Angeles

Officer Robert Aberg	Officer Hector Gutierrez	Officer Bruce Moats
Officer Mike Alger	Officer James Hackett	Officer Timothy O'Toole
Officer D. J. Berg	Officer D. L. Hernandez	Officer Douglas Patterson
Officer James Brown	Officer Kevin G. Holsome	Officer Scott Pierson
Officer Curtis S. Bryan	Sergeant David Kinaan	Sergeant Timothy Tompkins
Officer Randy Campbell	Sergeant Robert F. LaPord	Officer Takayuki Uemura
Officer Adam J. Christin	Officer Susan A. Lau	Officer Scott E. Wall
Officer Elmer Clarke	Officer Christopher Mak	Officer Lance Wells
Officer Sean Coyle	Officer Chris Mann	Officer Steve P. Whitaker
Officer Harold Daily	Officer James P. Mann	Officer Leonard Winstead
Officer Shannon Distel	Officer Bruce Mauldin	

The South Los Angeles Area Motorcycle Squad rode 667,539 miles without a preventable accident. The squad is comprised of 29 officers and 3 sergeants who patrol freeways and surface streets, enforce traffic laws, and provide assistance to the motoring public by responding to thousands of collision and assistance calls. Despite patrolling some of the busiest freeways in California, these motorcycle officers accomplished their duties while riding over a half million miles without a preventable accident in 1999.

### OFFICER SAFETY TRAINING-BORDER DIVISION HIGHWAY PATROL

San Diego

Officer Rich Berg
Captain Steve Lykins
Officer Bill Carrington
Officer Drew Hertsch
Captain Steve Lykins
Officer Jorge Ontiveros
Sergeant Hector Paredes

Border Division's Officer Safety Training program was established to enhance an officer's ability to safely survive dangerous encounters by providing additional tools and tactics to deal with the non-compliant person. Progressive training was developed and implemented that emphasizes personal weapons and scenario-based training to meet "real-world" encounters. As a result, field officers are more confident in their abilities to mitigate hostile incidents and injuries to officers and the public are beginning to decline. This training has resulted in a safer working environment for the officer and the community.

### CRAIG A. DOVE AND TERESA LOPEZ HIGHWAY PATROL

Cottonwood

The sumps of the inspection pits at the Cottonwood Inspection Facility regularly filled up with water and overflowed resulting in an unsafe situation and slippery concrete steps. Commercial Vehicle Inspection Specialist Craig Dove and Maintenance Worker Teresa Lopez designed and constructed wire grid pre-filters which are easily removed at regular intervals. These filters have greatly reduced the run-off water in the inspection pits and the potential for injury.

### AVIATION GROUP, MISSION SUPPORT BRANCH JUSTICE

Sacramento

Greg Fullam Nick Kopanke Vicki Merjil
George Gammon Steve Lund Don Rominger
Lou Hirota Bob Lytle Ron Shintaku
John Huffaker Ron McCullough Ann Tanger

John Irwin

Since the centralization of the aviation program in September of 1994, the Aviation Group has flown approximately 7,150 missions with over 14,500 hours of accident-free flying. The Aviation Group has become invaluable to agents in the field by effectively conducting counter-surveillance operations in the most difficult of conditions. Their dedication to safety and outstanding performance has resulted in a safer work environment and community for all.

#### RONK, ZORN, AND PATTON MENTAL HEALTH

Atascadero

Robert Patton Linton Ronk Vince Zorn

During the past three years, warehouse staff have had no injuries or loss of work hours due to work-related injuries. This is particularly amazing considering that during this period of time the staff have handled more than 4,650 tons of material both on the dock and subsequent distribution to individual departments. Warehouse staff realized the great potential for injury associated with the amount of products handled and that an injury could result in an absence which would not only slow service, but increase the injury potential for the remaining employees. They developed guidelines for operating equipment, reinforced the use of good body mechanics when lifting, and continue to maintain the warehouse and dock areas in a well organized fashion. By being accident-free, this team has provided consistent service to the facility and has proven that good safety practices and procedures work.

#### GARCIA, PORTER, AND GARCIA MENTAL HEALTH

Atascadero

Lauro Lopez Garcia

Richard Garcia

James Porter

On September 15, 1999, while making unit rounds, Lauro Garcia noticed a strange movement in the bed area of one of the patients. Summoning James Porter to assist him, they found the patient attempting to take his life. Mr. Garcia and Mr. Porter immediately intervened and placed him on one-to-one supervision with Richard Garcia. Staff were eventually able to calm him down and return the patient to regular care. The alertness and leadership displayed by Lauro Garcia, and the teamwork of James Porter and Richard Garcia, prevented a life-threatening event and saved the patient's life.

#### SAN PEDRO FIELD OFFICE MOTOR VEHICLES

San Pedro

Jackie Burnip Becky Dominguez Sandra Jackson-Smith Tonya Kemp Ruben Lopez Evelyn Pierre-Williams Maida Velazquez

An elderly customer visiting the San Pedro Field Office of the Department of Motor Vehicles collapsed on January 5, 1999 due to a heart attack. This group of employees responded to the crisis in a coordinated attempt to save the gentleman's life. Team members contacted 911, cleared the area of other customers visiting the office, and administered cardiopulmonary resuscitation until the paramedics could arrive. The team was especially helpful and caring in assisting family members in coping with their loss.

### RIVERSIDE DISTRICT SAFETY COMMITTEE STATE COMPENSATION INSURANCE FUND

Riverside

Rich Becker Sharon Guiles Jane Sparks
Karen Emanuel Leonard Rodriguez Cyndy Ward
Rose Gareau

The Riverside District Safety Committee has achieved remarkable results in the last three consecutive years, earning two "No Lost Time Accidents" and "No Preventable Auto Accident" awards. They achieved these remarkable results by providing quarterly safety training to the office employees, conducting regular office inspections with hazard abatement, producing a quarterly safety and health office newsletter, and awarding a "Housekeeping" award for departments with the least number of violations. They have invited specialists from local law enforcement and emergency agencies to speak to their employees on personal and work-related safety matters. The committee also manages the successful Emergency Preparedness program, safety suggestion box and office safety bulletin board.

### IDLEWILD MARKER REMOVAL SYSTEM TEAM TRANSPORTATION

District 1

James E. Jensen Thomas L. Palazzi David E. Swallow

James Jensen, Thomas Palazzi, and David Swallow from the Idlewild Maintenance Crew, devised an attachment that is connected to a grader's moldboard that removes roadside markers, both recessed and raised. Not only is this method superior, (removing 450 markers an hour rather than the 90 markers an hour using the old method), but it has also reduced back injuries to our employees. In addition, the method minimizes the amount of time our workforce is exposed to moving traffic.

### TOLL COLLECTION SAFETY TEAM TRANSPORTATION

District 4

Roger Bishop Richard Schatzman Bruce J. Yingling

With the development of Electronic Toll Collection, new safety issues and concerns needed to be addressed for those working in the toll lanes, (e.g.; opening and closing of toll lanes, and working with traffic that no longer stops to pay toll). The Toll Collection Safety Team developed safety videos teaching safety at new employee orientations, tailgate safety meetings and during annual Safety Stand Down sessions.

### WING PLOW COMMITTEE TRANSPORTATION

District 2

Eddie Cahill John C. Nelson Russell G. Schultz
Michael N. Cox Gary Ragan Allen Robert Thomson
Edward W. Giroux Micky Riley Mark G. Zumkehr
Jeff Kiser

The Wing Plow Committee was formed to standardize the placement of the wing plow control in Caltrans plow trucks. In 1999 the committee created an ergonomically sound design that allowed for operator comfort and ease of operation. The new cab layout was adopted by the Equipment Service Center and is now being placed in new equipment. The new design standardizes the layout for the plow controls and allows the operator to operate the plow more safely, reduces driver fatigue and enables the driver to operate the plow without taking his eyes off of the road. Standardizing the lever placement in all plow trucks will allow all operators to drive any truck from any region, as all truck controls will be the same.

#### SURVEY CREW TRANSPORTATION

District 5

Robert Brown Robert MacKenzie III Stacey Meacham

On the morning of January 12, 1999, an accident occurred on U.S. 101 in Monterey County. The area was blanketed with dense fog and visibility was minimal. Robert Brown, Robert MacKenzie, and Stacey Meacham happened upon the collision immediately after it occurred. They quickly called for assistance and provided warning to traffic approaching the accident scene. Considering the adverse weather conditions, their quick actions may very well have prevented a number of subsequent collisions. Their assistance, prior to the arrival of CHP officers, helped stabilize the scene of a multivehicle accident.

# STREET SMART FOR KIDS TRANSPORTATION

District 8

Jeanne M. Garcia Dennis Green Mario Maala

Jeanne Garcia, Dennis Green and Mario Maala have pooled their collective talents to create an innovative and informative safety presentation known as "Street Smart for Kids". This multimedia program combines speakers, displays and hands-on demonstrations to teach children to recognize and properly react to real-life situations they may encounter. A key feature of this program is a coloring book, the central character being Caltrans' Safety Hero "Jack Hammer." As the children follow Jack in his adventures, they learn to safely cross streets, receive important safety hints and are made aware of good driving habits. The coloring book also enforces the need to exercise caution in construction zones and give highway workers "a brake." In the long run, it is hoped that this program will help the children become better drivers when they become older. The more immediate benefit is that they will pass their new awareness on to family members who drive and help make California streets and highways safer for all citizens of California.

# BREWER, CONTRERAS, AND MILLER TRANSPORTATION

District 10

Matthew S. Brewer

Jon David Contreras

David N. Miller

On February 8, 1999, at approximately 3:30 a.m., a driver veered off the road traveling airborne over trees, a fence and a bridge abutment. Had it not been for Matthew Brewer, Jon Contreras, and David Miller being at the location and taking immediate action, the citizen would have been there until at least daylight, since he was not visible from the road. The citizen was found face down in the dirt. He suffered from back, leg, and facial injuries, and was going into shock. The Caltrans employees called for the CHP and an ambulance. The citizen was transported by helicopter to the hospital.

### NORTHERN YOUTH CORRECTIONAL RECEPTION CENTER Stockton YOUTH AUTHORITY

Debbie Ackerson **Dorothy Gallegos** Josie Ontiveros Clara Alberg Rick Gastello Jorge Ortiz F. Apedaile Phyllis Gillette Victor Ortiz Conrado Gomez Ernesto Pangilinan Lynda Baldwin Robert Beecroft Leo Gomez **Kevin Peters** Brenda Boe Karen Griffin Bill Preston **Arthur Griffitts** Kevin Brophy Jaime Ramirez **Shirley Burns** Joe Gutierrez Brian Riffel Patricia Carey Renee Harris Johnnie Robinson Doreen Caro Marjorie Hedricks Phillip Rodriguez Peter Ho Roy Chandler Harold Root Sherrie Huante Patricia Chavez Raymundo Segura Douglas Collier Luis Hurtado David Sepulveda Tom Colpitts Richard Sepulveda Barbara Jones Charlotte Silva Conrado Corpuz Louise Jones Tambra Cozad Louie Lopez Sue Summersett Chris Crisologo Ed Tse Valerie Love Jose Cruz Pat Majerus Silveria Umbay Joann Daniel Allie Maynard Richard Valadez Kristi McCollum Miguel Dedios Dolores Velasquez Felix Delrosario Elizabeth Mullen Jerry Villa

Richard Dunham Tim Nutt
Richard Dunton Rick Oliva

The Food Services Section staff works with wards, heavy equipment, and temperature extremes to prepare, transport and service over 7,000 meals a day. In the past three years, this group has made tremendous progress toward creating a safe work environment. During this period, accidents have been cut in half and lost time injuries have been reduced by two-thirds. As a work group, Food Services consistently keeps safety as a main focus by holding monthly safety meetings, contributing safety tips to the food services newsletter, including safety concerns in written work orders, and holding a yearly safety awards event.

## NORTHERN YOUTH CORRECTIONAL RECEPTION CENTER Sacramento YOUTH AUTHORITY

Alan CookHurthel McDanielLoren SchmierLawrence HamiltonElizabeth NewtonLee SmithWillie HopkinsCarolyn OgdenOvella SmithAngela JohnsonRobert ReyesGlen WynneWarren LooperMichael Saldana

The commitment to safety and security within the Food Services Section has resulted in this group attaining an accident-free record from June 1998 to July 1999. Daily training of wards, cleaning schedules, sight supervision, and adherence to accountability procedures, have contributed to creating a safer and more productive working environment for staff and wards alike.

#### INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

### ANGEL PARGA CALIFORNIA CONSERVATION CORPS

Auburn

Angel Parga, Conservationist I, supervises the Placer Action Corps crew, a special program whose work force is compiled of educationally and economically "at risk" youth between the ages of 15 to 18. Work provided by these crews include trail construction, levy clearance/debris removal after floods, tree trimming/planting and recycling projects. Projects often require the handling of extremely heavy items and the use of equipment such as chainsaws, power drills, Pulaski's, McLeod's and sledgehammers, any of which can cause great bodily harm if not handled correctly. Under Mr. Parga's supervision and direction, this very challenging age group has received extensive training on the proper use and maintenance of equipment used and has become proficient in all areas of safety. Due to Mr. Parga's commitment to provide a safe work environment for his crew, no reportable injuries occurred to any member of his crew during 1999.

# JANET ELAINE WOHLGEMUTH CALIFORNIA CONSERVATION CORPS

Watsonville

Under the direction and supervision of Janet Wohlgemuth, Conservationist I, her crews have completed more than 425 days (32,300 person hours) without an injury. This accomplishment is especially notable when considering the type of work her crews perform. The tasks include erosion control performed on steep/slippery hillsides, brush clearance, and trail construction/maintenance. These projects require the use of equipment such as chainsaws, Pulaski's, McLeod's, and sledgehammers, any of which can cause great bodily harm if not handled safely and correctly. Ms. Wohlgemuth designed and implemented a daily physical training/stretching safety program for her crews to reduce the potential for injury. Ms. Wohlgemuth's safety record is a reflection of her commitment to providing a safe and healthy work environment for her employees.

### GOLDEN LEE KEPHART CALIFORNIA EXPOSITION & STATE FAIR

Sacramento

While carrying out his assignment of cleaning the parking lot at Cal Expo, Mr. Kephart discovered an object that looked like a pipe bomb. At the time of this incident, many vehicles were entering the parking area. Mr. Kephart contacted the bomb squad and immediately secured the area to keep the public away from the device. Mr. Kephart's quick response potentially saved hundreds of lives and property from harm.

#### JOYCE E. KIRKLAND CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY

Chico

Ms. Kirkland, Telecommunications Consultant in the Communications Services Department, devised a plan to ensure the safety of employees, who are dispersed throughout two buildings. This involved recruiting area coordinators to work closely with her. She is the floor warden of all three departments of Communication Services. Ms. Kirkland is thorough, professional and has an excellent rapport with her peers and the campus community at large. She has ensured that training workshops and safety inspections are scheduled and completed, developed evacuation procedures, identified hazards and reported unsafe conditions to the Environmental Management, Health and Safety Department. Ms. Kirkland's dedication to the department's safety program has created a safer environment for herself, her co-workers and the entire CSU community.

#### MARY GRANGER CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY

**Dominguez Hills** 

Ms. Granger, Records Information Management Clerk, voluntarily attends and participates in the meetings of the Campus Health and Safety Committee. She has also brought many safety-related issues to the attention of the Risk Management/Environmental Health and Safety office. Ms. Granger strongly supports ergonomics training both in and out of her department. She encourages employees to attend a variety of training, which has helped with safety education campus wide.

#### ROBERT G. BARNES CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY

Fresno

Mr. Barnes, Instructional Support Technician, has been the volunteer safety coordinator for the art department at California State University, Fresno since 1990. He has developed an outstanding safety program in a department that encompasses many safety issues including hazardous materials and heat exposure. Mr. Barnes works with department heads to identify safety hazards, initiate corrective measures, and conduct periodic inspections. His skills in safety and attention to detail are an example to all. Mr. Barnes' strong sense of ownership of department space, equipment and other resources, along with his outstanding dedication to occupational safety, serve as the catalyst for providing a safe working environment for the students, faculty and staff of the university.

### GARY LENTELL CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY

Fresno

Dr. Lentell, Professor in the Physical Therapy Department has been a tireless champion of innovative projects designed to improve employee workstation ergonomics. As such, he has been an active volunteer member of the University's Ergonomic Workstation Committee since 1995. He designed programs to improve the ergonomics at campus computer workstations. He was the driving force behind the development and completion of a CD-ROM based training module that teaches personnel how to use proper body mechanics and how to set up safe work stations. Mr. Barnes subsequently lead a pilot study on a specific group of employees to test the effects of this CD-ROM training in reducing the risk of injury from repetitive stress injuries. By virtue of the positive results of this study, the module is now ready for distribution campus-wide.

#### WILLIAM D. MEYER CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY

**Fullerton** 

Mr. Meyer, Professor of Theatre and Dance, had developed safety programs during his 15 years on campus, even before Injury and Illness Prevention became familiar to anyone. To alert his students to the continuous hazardous situations of stagecraft, stage mechanics and rigging, he developed and taught specialized safety guidelines for each of his classes. Mr. Meyer is a positive supporter of safe practices for students, staff and faculty. His training classes have encompassed eye and respiratory protection, hearing conservation, fall protection, hazard communication, and ergonomic safety in the computer lab. Mr. Meyer stands out as a role model to the entire faculty in support of student safety efforts.

## SPENCER COLMAN CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY

**Fullerton** 

Mr. Coleman, an electrician at California State University, Fullerton has made employee safety part of his job and is a strong advocate of safety with his co-workers. He was the first "Safety Employee of the Quarter" for the Environmental Health and Safety Office. He proactively supports safety everywhere on campus and especially in high hazard areas such as elevator shafts, escalators and electrical vaults. When he finds potentially hazardous situations, he can be counted on to correct the hazard. Mr. Coleman has been a key figure in establishing many safety programs on campus, such as: lockout/tagout, asbestos, alarm system and electrical safety. His strong influence has helped to create a safety culture throughout the university.

#### LINDA C. KINRADE CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY

**Hayward** 

Ms. Kinrade, Associate Dean, School of Science, recognized a need for a coordinated, intentional effort to achieve specific safety goals so she established and chaired a School of Science Safety Committee. The committee achieved these goals by publishing a safety manual that created procedures for the reporting and correction of health and safety issues. Ms. Kinrade creates solutions for issues of ventilation, dangerous vapor prevention and hazardous materials incidents. She ensures that the coordinated efforts of several offices are carried out to the satisfaction of all affected parties. Her leadership and personal involvement in safety issues has led to the promotion of safe work and study conditions for the university's science faculty, staff and students.

### TONY S. TORRES CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY

**Long Beach** 

Mr. Torres, Supervising Technician, assumed his new position in 1999 and instituted a housekeeping program that involved disposal of tons of surplus equipment which eliminated many safety hazards. He designed and implemented most of the corrective actions himself. Additionally, he began other health and safety projects such as a safety review of materials and procedures associated with department instructional labs. Mr. Torres also designed health and safety communication programs aimed at lab instructors and their students. Templates were created with easy to follow safety instructions. These measures proved to be so effective that they have since been shared with all other science departments.

#### JERRY B. WHITE CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY

Northridge

Mr. White, in addition to his duties as a Custodian in the Physical Plant Department, is dedicated to improving safety on campus. He has volunteered for extensive safety training in response procedures for elevator entrapment. Due to heavy earthquake reconstruction, the university has experienced elevator malfunctions. In one such incident, he successfully calmed a claustrophobic victim with his calm reassurance that the service technician was en route thus managing to divert her attention and prevent escalation of a potential medical hazard. Mr. White also volunteered his time to make suggestions related to elevator entrapment; this has helped promote a safer work environment for the university community.

### CAROLYN FORRESTER CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY

**Pomona** 

Ms. Forrester, Instructional Support Technician, College of Science, has a great personal commitment to the safety and well being of the university students and her co-workers She has taken on the responsibility of Building Marshall for the Emergency Management Plan in the College of Science. She has paid for and attended, on her own time, a Community Emergency Response Team training. She schedules an emergency training program for emergency personnel at least quarterly. Carolyn continuously evaluates the university environment for hazards that could cause an unsafe situation including securing emergency equipment by either personally purchasing it or by convincing others to donate it. Ms. Forrester is a tremendous advocate for safety who motivates the university community members and volunteer students to get involved in their own safety.

### CARL ALLEN KIMBLE CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY

Sacramento

Mr. Kimble, Maintenance Mechanic, participates in the respiratory protection program and attends the regular medical monitoring and associated training and fit testing. He has been involved with the Environmental Health and Safety Department to perform exposure assessments. He has implemented the use of proper respiratory cartridges and eye and clothing protection to reduce hazard exposure during work. He has also modified the use of chlorine tablets for the pools thereby reducing the amount of hazardous waste generated from 600 to 10 pounds per year. Apart from the obvious hazard, Mr. Kimble's reduction of chlorination waste generated significant cost savings to the university.

#### DAWN M. CHRISTIANSEN CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY

San Diego

Ms. Christiansen, Administrative Coordinator, serves as volunteer safety coordinator. She assists the Environmental Health and Safety Department by conducting workplace safety inspections and disseminating information to her College of Arts and Letters Department. Additionally, Ms. Christiansen has devoted countless hours to the planning and execution of two emergency evacuation drills. She arranged numerous training sessions to train the individuals in the campus' 35 departments, which are situated both on and off campus. The training of these 9,000 faculty, staff and students was invaluable to the success of the 2 evacuation drills held in 1999.

#### SUSAN MOTLAGH CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY

San Diego

Ms. Motlagh, Assistant to the Vice President, serves as volunteer safety coordinator for the Division of Graduate and Research Affairs at San Diego State University. She assists the Environmental Health and Safety Department on campus by conducting safety surveys and reviewing renovation proposals for safety. She also provides emergency evacuation training for all levels of administration in and out of her division. Ms. Motlagh ensured that these key individuals attended the training and became aware of the potential for devastation from an earthquake. This training has contributed to the overall success of a planned evacuation drill in 1999.

### STEVE CHONG CORRECTIONS

Chowchilla

On December 5, 1999 Mr. Chong, Correctional Officer at Central California Women's Facility, was supervising the evening meal. Mr. Chong observed an inmate who appeared to be choking and quickly responded by applying an abdominal thrust. The food blocking the inmate's airway was dislodged and as a result of Mr. Chongs' quick action the inmate suffered no permanent injury.

# BRIAN PATRICK PAHEL CORRECTIONS

Chino

Mr. Pahel, Correctional Sergeant at the California Institution for Men, identified that there was an average of four "gassing" assaults per month. He developed a "gassing shield" out of Lexan and had them installed in the hospital maximum-security ward. These shields protected staff from gassing assaults when approaching the viewing window. The edges were painted red, so that the shields open or closed position would be visible. After their installation, the number of gassing assaults dropped to two in a twelve-month period. In addition, Mr. Pahel developed an identification system for the inmates' custody level, red requiring the attendance of two custodial staff members and white for one custodial staff member. These are placed on the exterior of the cell making it easy for medical services to be rendered safely.

### ERICK W. SMITH CORRECTIONS

Corcoran

Upon entering the holding cell of an inmate, Mr. Smith, Correctional Sergeant at Corcoran State Prison, saw the inmate attempting to take his life. He yelled for assistance, assessed the situation, and was able to prevent the inmate from harming himself. Responding staff arrived and the inmate was given emergency medical treatment. Because of Mr. Smiths' quick actions, the inmate fully recovered.

# TONI BANUELOS CORRECTIONS

**Sacramento** 

Ms. Banuelos, Accounting Technician, volunteered to be a floor warden and has expanded her role to include attending meetings with Health and Safety and disseminating what she learns at these meetings to the whole floor. She has taken it upon herself to update the emergency team roster as changes occur and seek out replacements for the team as needed. Ms. Banuelos created a sign to direct employees where to congregate in the case of an emergency evacuation. This sign was so effective that it was used to develop signs for each of the other floors.

### OSCAR GONZALEZ CORRECTIONS

**Imperial** 

On December 7, 1999 an inmate working in one of the kitchens at Centinela State Prison was stabbed several times by another inmate. Mr. Gonzalez, Supervising Cook I, immediately activated his personal alarm and then rendered aid to the injured inmate. Mr. Gonzalez is also a trained emergency medical technician and when the inmate indicated that he could not breathe he used plastic wrap to apply pressure to the puncture area. The inmate had suffered a punctured lung and Mr. Gonzalez's quick actions contributed to the inmate's full recovery.

### LYNN A. RINGUETTE CORRECTIONS

Sacramento

Mr. Ringuette, Assistant Regional Parole Administrator in the Parole and Community Services Division, is the Division Rangemaster, with lead capacity over approximately two hundred fifty Rangemasters statewide. He is a resource for all weapons related issues. He has written numerous training articles promoting safety, helped design and implement a variety of training programs, is the primary trainer for the Parole Agent Academy, developed the Parole Division's Rangemaster Certification Program and is the primary trainer for this program. There have been no accidents under his supervision in the thirteen years that Mr. Ringuette has been performing these duties. His personal dedication to agent safety is truly commendable as these activities were not a part of his normal job responsibilities and most of the non-instructional components were accomplished on his own time.

#### VICKY LYNN SMITH DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

**Porterville** 

In April 1999, Ms. Smith, Food Service Worker II at the Porterville Developmental Center, was assigned to the sack lunch tray line in the main kitchen. Ms. Smith recognized the risk of injury from the repetitive motions required to identify, create and place labels on 2,235 trays per week. Ms. Smith designed computerized tray line cards that slide into holders. They are color coded for added efficiency and have eliminated several high-risk ergonomic steps reducing the potential for repetitive motion injuries.

### DANNY MOORE DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

Porterville

On October 7, 1999, while serving lunch in the dining room, a client began making gurgling noises and his color became cyanotic. Mr. Moore, a Senior Psychiatric Technician, immediately initiated emergency procedures and began abdominal thrusts. After several minutes, the client's breathing returned to normal. Because of Mr. Moore's prompt life saving measures, the client fully recovered and did not require further emergency medical intervention.

### ROBERT P. TENHET DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

Porterville

On November 2, 1999, while serving breakfast in the dining room, a client began choking. Mr. Tenhet, a Psychiatric Technician Assistant, immediately began abdominal thrusts on the client. After the third thrust, the food item was dislodged and the client's breathing and facial color returned to normal. Because of Mr. Tenhet's prompt life saving measures, the client fully recovered and did not require further emergency medical intervention.

# DON NOEL DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

**Porterville** 

Mr. Noel, Unit Supervisor, was concerned about the frequent hospitalization of clients with respiratory problems and staff with flu symptoms. After the implementation of numerous infection control programs did not solve the ongoing problems, Mr. Noel explored additional solutions with Plant Operations, Safety Committees, Housekeeping and Employee Health. Plant Operations changed the filter system and an outside firm cleaned the vents. This resulted in a 25%-35% increase of air circulation in the residence and a decrease in respiratory problems to clients and staff.

#### RICHARD B. FENNER FISH & GAME

Stockton

On June 2, 1999 a private boat was quickly taking on water in the middle of the Sacramento River and issued a "may day". Mr. Fenner, Mate, Fishery Vessel radioed to the Coast Guard that he was 200 yards south of the location and would pull in his nets and provide assistance. Mr. Fenner assessed the situation, advised the boat owners to lift anchor and towed the boat, grounding it on a beach on the riverbank. He then identified the cause of the leak and, using a washcloth and a screwdriver, plugged the leak. Due to his quick thinking the boat was saved and very possibly the lives of it's passengers.

#### CURTIS L. HAGEN FISH & GAME

Stockton

The Central Valley Bay-Delta Branch has had the need for extensive use of its forklift but did not have a program for training and certifying employees in place. Curtis Hagen, Fish and Widlife Technician, developed a comprehensive forklift safety training class providing valuable certification/re-certification of employees. Mr. Hagen's class includes instruction on current regulations, equipment inspections, operation, and loading and unloading. This program has since been incorporated into the Branch's Safety Program.

#### ALEX J. LUJAN FORESTRY & FIRE PROTECTION

Weed

Captain Lujan volunteered to be Siskiyou Unit's Physical Fitness Coordinator in the summer of 1999. Physical fitness is especially important to firefighters due to the strenuous work of responding to fires and other emergencies. There were 3 strain/sprain injuries prior to Captain Lujan instituting a physical fitness program; there were no sprain/strain injuries for the remainder of 1999. This is particularly impressive considering the busy fire season CDF experienced in 1999. He also accomplished an increase in the number of employees that have an active physical fitness program. All of this was accomplished by educating employees in proper diet and exercise and distributing "Tip of the Day" messages on various health related topics.

#### KENNETH G. STYC FRANCHISE TAX BOARD

Sacramento

Ken Styc, Associate Tax Auditor, has been a Certified First Aid/CPR volunteer for 2 years. On April 14, 1999, Ken was interviewing an employee in his office. The employee began choking on a piece of candy and couldn't speak. Ken immediately responded and administered the Heimlich maneuver to dislodge the candy.

#### JANE M. FRANK FRANCHISE TAX BOARD

Rancho Cordova

Jane Frank, Tax Program Technician I, has been a Certified First Aid/CPR volunteer at Franchise Tax Board for several years. On June 9, 1999, an employee collapsed and was lying on her side. Jane and a Security Officer turned her on her back and found she was having difficulty breathing. Another employee called 9-1-1 but before the paramedics could arrive at the scene, the employee stopped breathing. Jane and the Security Officer proceeded to administer CPR to the employee until the paramedics arrived.

### GEORGE FRANKLIN HALEY GENERAL SERVICES

Fresno

George Haley, a Stationary Engineer, has made a significant contribution in the health and safety program of Building and Property Management (BPM). Mr. Haley, on his spare time and after hours, wrote an injury and illness prevention program (IIPP) for his unit. The office felt the program was outstanding and decided to utilize this model in other offices within BPM. Since then he has taken the lead in promoting safety and preventing accidents. He has also become a safety coordinator for his unit, conducts safety meetings, instituted a chart for tracking accidents, and refined the IIPP handbook. He has been instrumental in increasing safety awareness in his unit and throughout BPM.

#### RONALD L. BLUNT HIGHWAY PATROL

Cottonwood

A potentially hazardous condition exists when Commercial Officers/Inspectors are beneath trucks while checking brake systems. Specifically, it is necessary for the employee conducting the inspection to communicate to the truck driver when it is necessary to fully apply or release the brakes. Shouted commands can result in the driver of a truck in an adjacent lane reacting and endangering an employee who may be under that truck. Based on a suggestion by the Area Occupational Safety Committee, Officer Blunt used his skills as a licensed electrical contractor to design and construct a "light and three switches system" in the pit-equipped lanes at the Cottonwood Inspection Facility. The system consists of a switch at the ends of each 89-foot pit and a light visible to the truck driver. Inspectors are now able to signal a truck's driver by simply activating one of the switches when necessary.

#### DENTON E. DODSON HIGHWAY PATROL

Cottonwood

The Cottonwood Inspection Facility hoist is used for various truck inspection and maintenance needs where a standard ladder would be unfeasible or unsafe. The hoist had to be hand-cranked which was difficult and potentially hazardous. At the request of the commander, Mr. Dodson, who is certified as a hydraulics technician by the U.S. Army, converted the hoist to electro-hydraulic power. An emergency override switch allows for manual operation. The hoist now makes it safer for employees to perform tank inspections and has reduced the need (and cost) of summoning Caltrans or electricians to perform repair and maintenance tasks.

#### JOHN H. NOVAK HIGHWAY PATROL

Ventura

For the past several years, the Ventura Area has experienced a high number of preventable patrol vehicle accidents (an average of 7.2 over the past five years). Sergeant Novak realized that the vast majority of the Area's officers are young, and many have young children. His idea was to have the officers' children draw posters of their parents at work and to have a "Poster Contest." This got the whole family involved in the safety theme. The posters were placed in the hallways to remind the officers of their need to drive safely so that they would be able to go home to their children at the end of their shift. John coordinated the "Poster Contest" and had prizes for the top three posters in various age divisions. The contest was a huge success for the children, but most importantly, the number of preventable patrol vehicle collisions has been reduced dramatically. As a direct result of Sergeant Novak's efforts, the Area anticipates meeting their goal for the first time in many years.

## EDWARD L. SCOTT, JR. MENTAL HEALTH

Patton

Edward L. Scott was supervising patients in the dining room for the lunch meal. Suddenly Mr. Scott noticed that a patient was grasping his neck and gasping for air. He quickly responded to the patient and performed the Heimlich maneuver which dislodged the particle of food allowing the patient to breathe freely. Mr. Scott's quick and knowledgeable action controlled a potentially life-threatening situation.

#### STEWART L. JEWELL MENTAL HEALTH

Atascadero

On August 4, 1999, Stewart Jewell, Senior Psychiatric Technician, was performing routine rounds in his unit when he observed some unusual activity occurring in an adjoining unit. A social worker was under attack and Mr. Jewell responded immediately to protect the social worker from harm and secure the patient. Mr. Jewell sustained injuries during the rescue attempt, but maintained a positive attitude and remained in contact with co-workers to assist them in dealing with the incident. Mr. Jewell has demonstrated outstanding qualities of leadership in this crisis situation as well as concern for the safety of all staff.

#### MATT N. STANTON MENTAL HEALTH

Atascadero

On October 4, 1999, during the evening meal in the Atascadero State Hospital dining room, Mr. Stanton observed that a patient of his unit appeared to be in distress. The patient was bent over at the waist, gasping, and had a reddened skin tone. Mr. Stanton asked him if he were choking and he nodded in the affirmative. Mr. Stanton then administered the Heimlich Maneuver and was successful in dislodging the food that had been blocking the patient's airway. Normal skin color and breathing resumed and the patient was able to continue eating his meal. Mr. Stanton's alertness, accurate assessment of the problem, and rapid and effective application of the Heimlich Maneuver, created a successful resolution to a potentially life-threatening situation.

#### LINDA DENISE MEHAWK MOTOR VEHICLES

**Sacramento** 

On February 4, 1999, Ms. Mehawk, Senior Legal Typist, received a phone call from a woman upset about the possible revocation of her license. The woman was driving on the freeway and threatened to careen her car off of a bridge or into a structure. Although the woman repeatedly said she was going to commit suicide, Ms. Mehawk remained calm and obtained the pertinent information necessary to relay to police where they could find the woman. Authorities were directed to the scene where they took the woman into protective custody. Ms. Mehawk's quick response and previous training as a police dispatcher managed to avert a potential tragedy.

#### LEALAND E. STEWART STATE COMPENSATION INSURANCE FUND

San Francisco

After a unique "blood spill" incident in the office building where quarterly blood drives are part of the donor employees' routines, Lealand Stewart, Janitor Supervisor III, took advantage of the opportunity to educate his entire janitorial staff on bloodborne pathogens. Mr. Stewart developed a practical training program to educate his staff of 30 people on this important matter. His initiative in creating a safe work environment will not only benefit his immediate staff, but ultimately all of the building occupants and visiting members of the public.

#### JOHN CHRISTOPHER FALCO TRANSPORTATION

Headquarters

In September of 1999, John Falco, Caltrans Heavy Equipment Mechanic, was traveling east on State Route 91 freeway when he noticed smoke coming from the rear wheels of a small 15 passenger school bus. The operator was unaware that the rear parking brakes had remained on and were burning. Mr. Falco managed to alert the driver of the problem and escorted the bus to the shoulder of the road. When the school bus had safely stopped on the shoulder, Mr. Falco strategically placed his Caltrans mechanic's van behind the school bus to act as a barrier to on-coming traffic. After Mr. Falco alerted the CHP, he escorted the elementary grade school children from the bus to a safe area away from traffic. Through his quick thinking, Mr. Falco prevented an accident involving a school bus. Further, Mr. Falco made sure that help was on its way and that the children were well out of harms way while waiting for help to arrive.

#### DAVID JAMES MATCHKE TRANSPORTATION

District 3

David Matchke, a Caltrans Heavy Equipment Operator for more than 20 years, is one of the state's elite. He is one of the few operators qualified to run the specialty-built "Snooper" trucks used to inspect bridges and dams located throughout California. His safety record is exemplary. He routinely trains all types of personnel to safely operate the trucks and use their special work platforms. In 1999, due to his expertise in the field, Mr. Matchke assisted his supervisor in updating the "Bridge Inspection Truck Code of Safe Operating Practices" to include the new safety harness regulations. Mr. Matchke is also the leader of the California's Inspection Truck Program. He has been among the first at the scene of every major earthquake in California for the past 15 years.

# JOEL D. JOHNSON TRANSPORTATION

District 4

Joel Johnson, a Caltrans Equipment Operator, has been a Personnel Hoist Trainer since 1994. The personnel hoist is a complex and specialized piece of equipment used by the Specialty Region. Personnel hoist training consists of safety practices, emergency letdown procedures, proper pre-op procedures, boom and weld inspections, proper personal safety gear (body harness, proper lanyards) and the use of same when operating a personnel hoist and the proper stowing of boom for travel. Mr. Johnson has trained maintenance employees, construction engineers on the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge retrofit project and the California Highway Patrol's Multi-Disciplinary Accident Investigation Team\_(MAIT) on proper operation of personnel hoists. Due to Mr. Johnson's thoroughness there were no injuries or accidents during the operation of the personnel hoist in 1999.

#### NICHOLAS G. DUMAS TRANSPORTATION

District 6

Nicholas Dumas, Senior Right of Way Agent, educates the Fresno community on the dangers of highway-rail intersections. He has been a leader in the railroad safety program developed by the Fresno Police Department with the support of Union Pacific Railroad and Operation Lifesaver, a nonprofit awareness program. He has made numerous presentations to local schools and organizations on safety in the area of railroad tracks and he has recruited and trained fellow Caltrans staff members to help spread the word. Mr. Dumas has also presented the Operation Lifesaver program at the annual Caltrans Safety Stand Down event and at safety meetings.

#### JOHN MARCUS ORTIZ TRANSPORTATION

District 7

John Ortiz, Caltrans Highway Maintenance Leadworker, has presented the "Give 'Em A Brake" and "Junior Cone Zone Safety Officer" programs to various elementary schools and community groups in the Ventura County area. He arranged tours of a maintenance facility to show the various types of equipment and warning signs used in Maintenance's daily operations. Mr. Ortiz has educated parents of the dangers involved when our workforce is working in the cone zones. In addition, the "Junior Cone Zone Safety Officer" educational program encourages children to remind their parents to slow down when they notice Caltrans trucks and signs.

#### ROBERT L. PARIS TRANSPORTATION

**District 9** 

Robert Paris is a Caltrans Equipment Operator at the Inyokern Maintenance Station. During the last "Safety Stand Down", Mr. Paris did a safety presentation on propane which he developed for this annual event. He demonstrated the proper way of filling bottles and covered all the safety aspects necessary for handling these units while performing highway maintenance work. This presentation is now available to other maintenance stations in the District. Because of Mr. Paris' knowledge of propane, he has undertaken the task of developing a Code of Safe Practices for filling and handling propane bottles.

# DANIEL M. JUAREZ TRANSPORTATION

District 11

Daniel Juarez, Caltrans Civil Transportation Engineer, developed a safety inspection checklist form that is used in field reviews by the District's Resident Engineers in the Construction branch. The checklist is a complete and concise tool to use when conducting inspections. Mr. Juarez also transposed the Construction Code of Safe Practices onto the Intranet for field engineers to access on their portable computers. The safety documents available in these formats enhance Construction's ability to properly administer the Caltrans safety program.

#### RANDY SHIFLET YOUTH AUTHORITY

Chaderjian

During the first six months of 1999, three staff were assaulted by wards by "gassing". To respond to this safety issue, Mr. Shiflet developed two devices to protect staff from this type of assault. The devices allow staff to feed and remove meal trays without having the food slot in the door open. These devices have led to zero staff assaults of this type since they were developed, increasing staff morale and decreasing work related injuries.

### TROY D. GOLD, JR. YOUTH AUTHORITY

Pine Grove

On July 21, 1999, three youths deliberately set a wildland fire at Pioneer Park in the city of Pioneer, CA. Youth Authority Correctional Officer Troy Gold was at the park that day supervising a community service work crew from Pine Grove Camp. Mr. Gold noticed smoke emanating from the perimeter of the park, directly adjacent to several residential buildings. He radioed California Department of Forestry with an exact description of the fire, including a physical description of three young boys he had seen running from the area. He then used his work crew to cut an emergency fire line,-preventing the fire from reaching homes and delaying the spread of the fire until engine units arrived. Due to Mr. Gold's quick thinking and decisive actions, the three youths were apprehended, the fire was put out, and a potential disaster was averted.

The Office of Risk and Insurance Management would like to thank the members of this year's Governor's Employee Safety Awards Committee:

T. Wayne Brazelton	Ivan Jackman	Kim Melchiori
Lucy Faria	John Jang	Susan Pipes
Warren Harris	Leighton Johe	Martha Wilson
Trudy Holder	Sharon McCalister	